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Hampden-Sydney's New Science Building

THE RECORD

The Hampden-Sydney Alumni Association, Spring '67

THE
RECORD
of the
Hampden-Sydney Alumni Association
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The Cover

An artist's drawing of Hampden-Sydney College's new science building.

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Nov: r 12, 1774

"In the Academy which Mr. Smith has the prospect of conducting in Pr: Edwd. County, according to the request and appointment of the Presbytery of Hanover, if he meets with the encouragement he expects; shall be taught the Greek and Latin languages to their greatest extent; and all the sciences which are usually studied, at any College, or Academy, on the Continent. He proposes to teach Geography in greater perfection, than, he is well assured, it is done in the major parts of our Institutions of learning; and so as to render it an excellent handmaid to the extensive and useful study of History; which with the science of Chronology shall be attended to. Mathematical learning he has made himself master of; and designs to teach those who choose, Arithmetic and Algebra; and Geometry applied particularly to surveying. This will prepare the way for the study of Natural Philosophy in all its branches after which he will instruct them in the important studies of Eloquence, Criticism, and the science of Morals . . ."

—from a Narrative ordered by the Board of Trustees

ontracts were signed February 6 between Hampden-Sydney and the Mottley Construction Company of Farmville for construction of a $2,017,000 science building on the campus.

The new facility will replace Bagby Hall, built in 1921 to accommodate a student body of 200 and a science faculty of three. The total enrollment for the 1966-67 session is 565, with a science faculty of 10.

In announcing the acceptance of Mottley's low bid, President Taylor Reveley said, "The addition of this significant facility to the campus will enable Hampden-Sydney to continue being worthy of her fine reputation for offering quality in *all* the liberal arts."

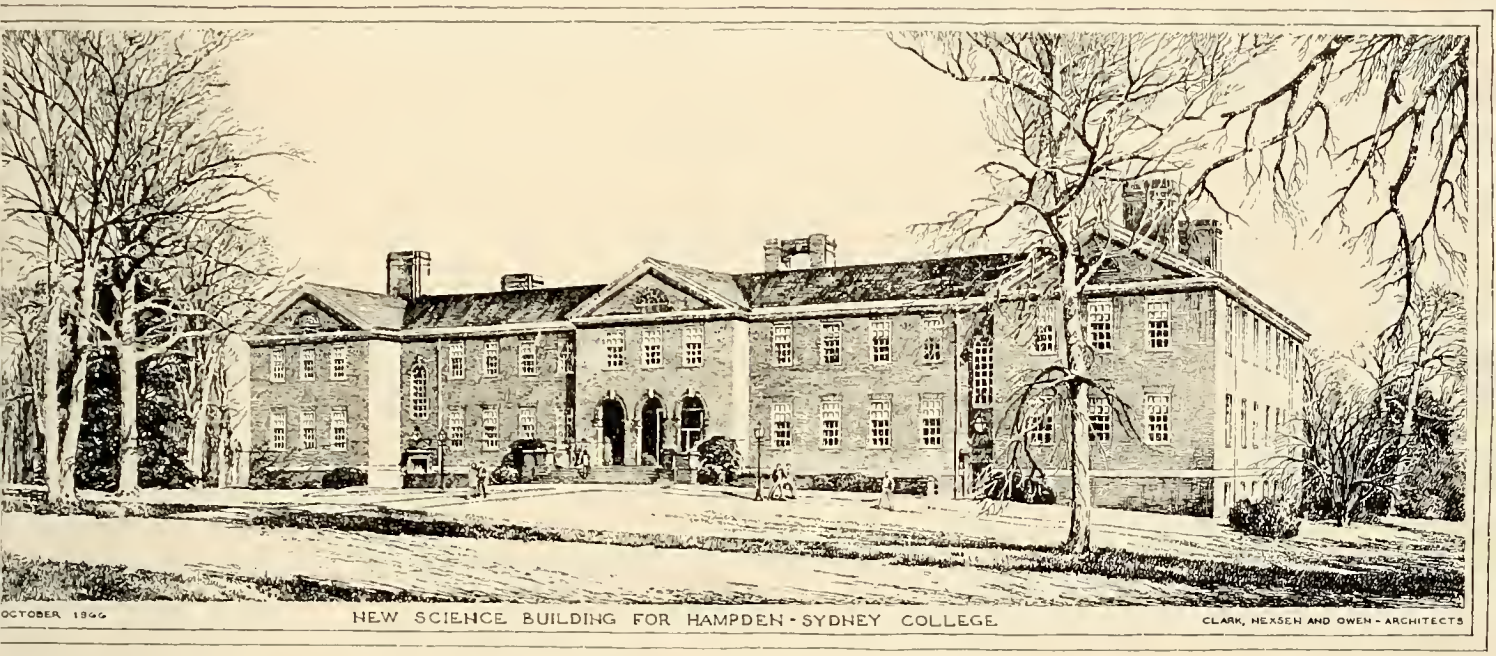
The building was designed by Clark, Nexsen and Owen, of Lynchburg, and will be a brick masonry structure with the exterior in a traditional Georgian architectural treatment to blend with the existing campus buildings.

Exterior materials comprise brick with stone and wood ornamentation, with all visible roofing in slate. The structural system is a composite of steel columns and beams with concrete floors and beam encasement. Interior walls will be of painted concrete masonry. The entire structure will be air conditioned.

The building will be a three story structure with a full attic. It consists of approximately 53,400 square feet which includes a detached greenhouse.

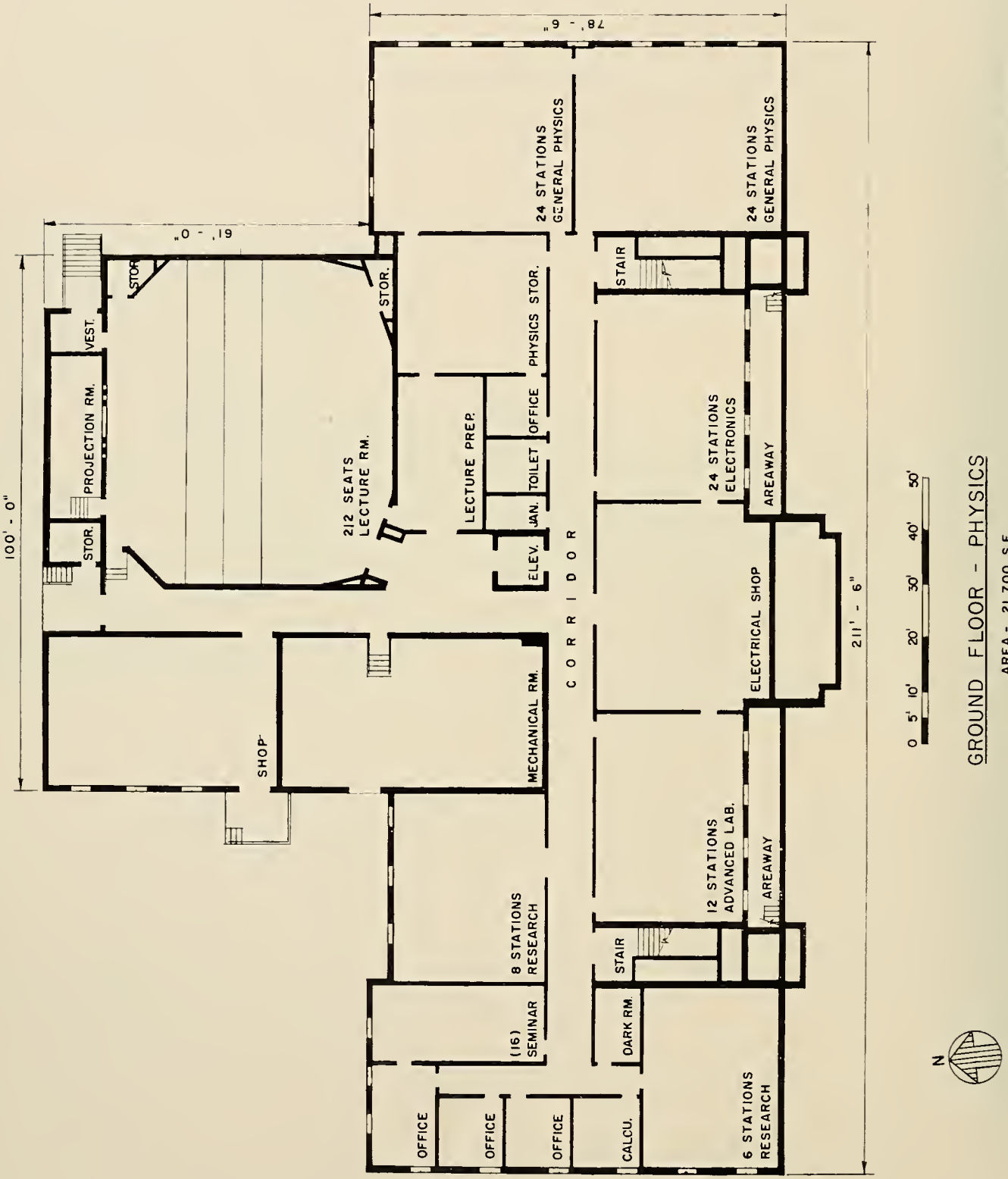
The science disciplines contained in the building will be the Physics, Biology and Chemistry Departments. There are 17 instructional laboratories and shops, 12 research laboratories, 12 faculty offices, five classrooms, a lecture classroom, a large multi-use lecture room and related support facilities.

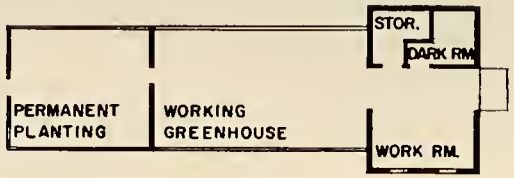
Construction of the multi-million dollar structure is scheduled for completion by July 30, 1968. A grant of $414,000 has been received from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare towards the cost of construction.



"The Addition Of This Significant Facility To The Campus . . .

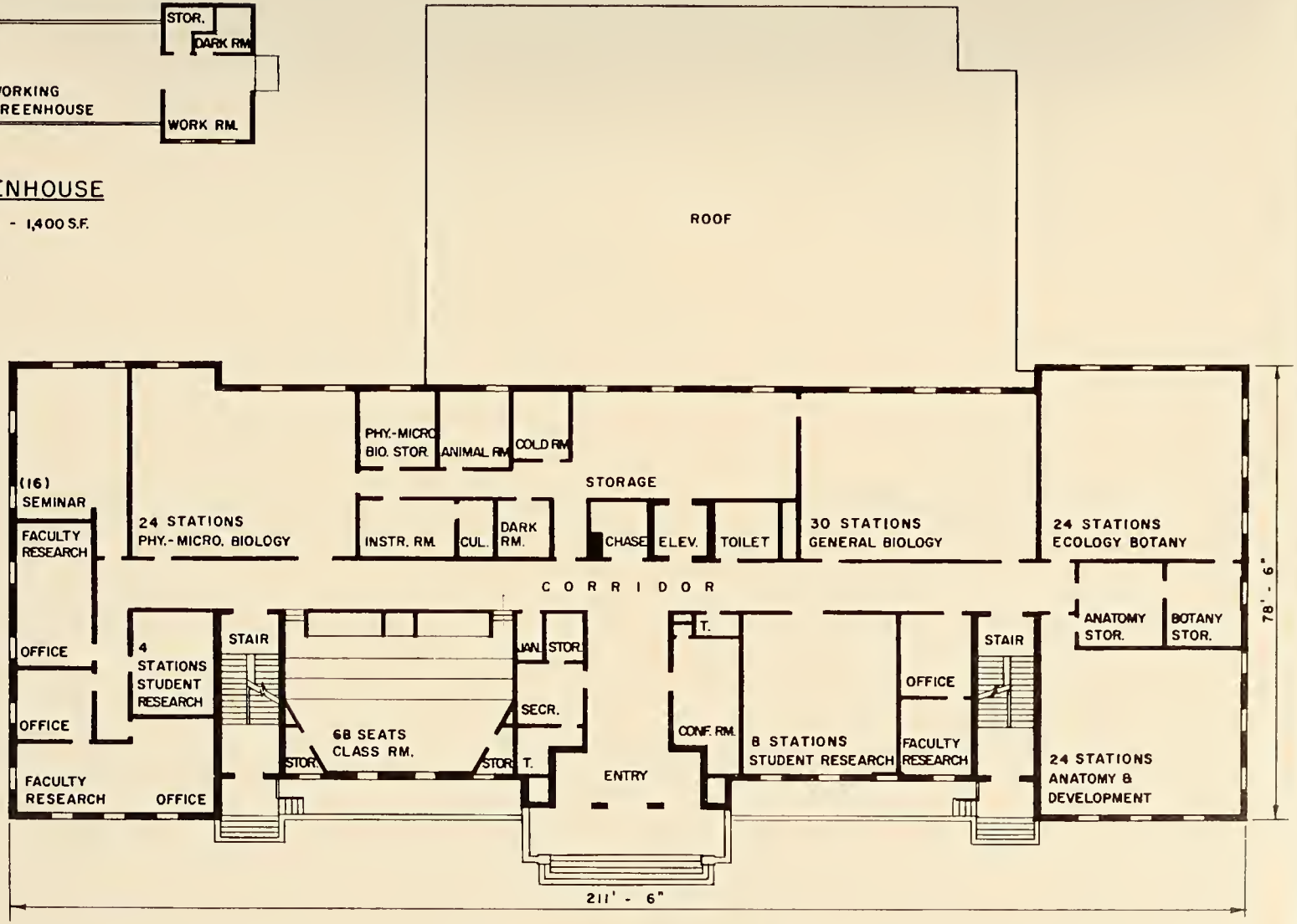
Will Enable Hampden-Sydney To Continue . . .





GREENHOUSE

AREA - 1,400 S.F.



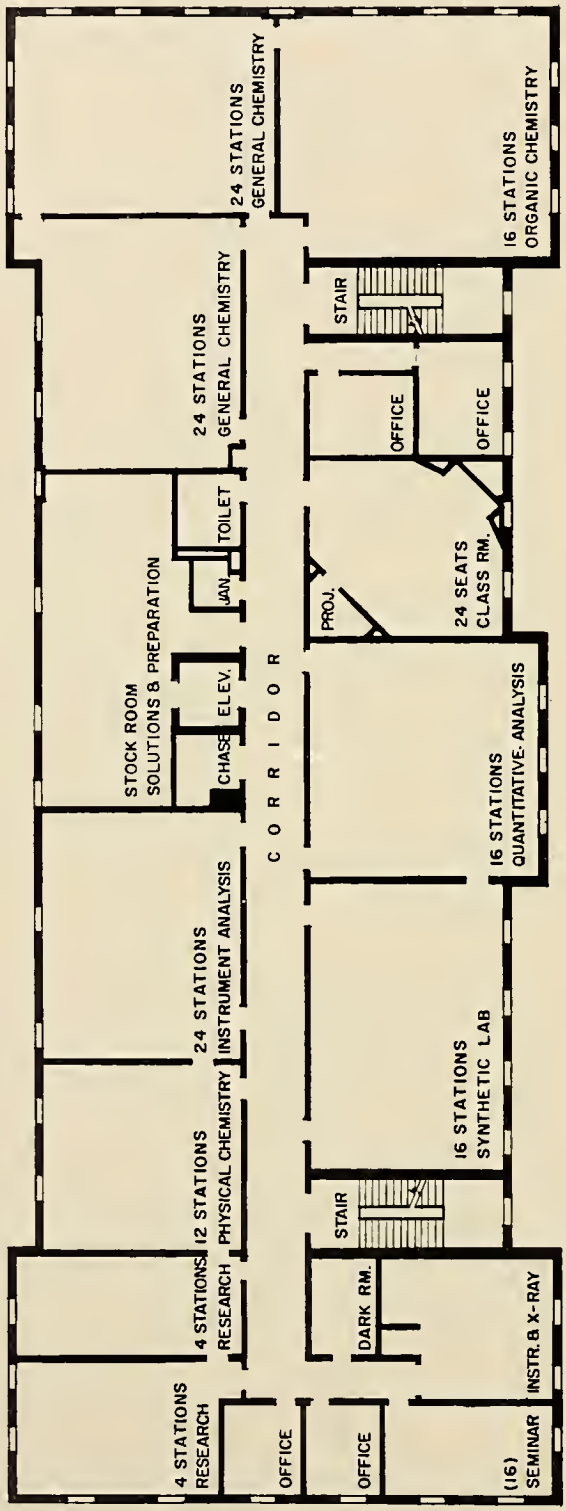
FIRST FLOOR - BIOLOGY

AREA - 16,600 S.F.

NEW SCIENCE BUILDING
HAMPDEN - SYDNEY COLLEGE
HAMPDEN - SYDNEY, VIRGINIA

CLARK, NEXSEN & OWEN
ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS

For Offering Quality . . .

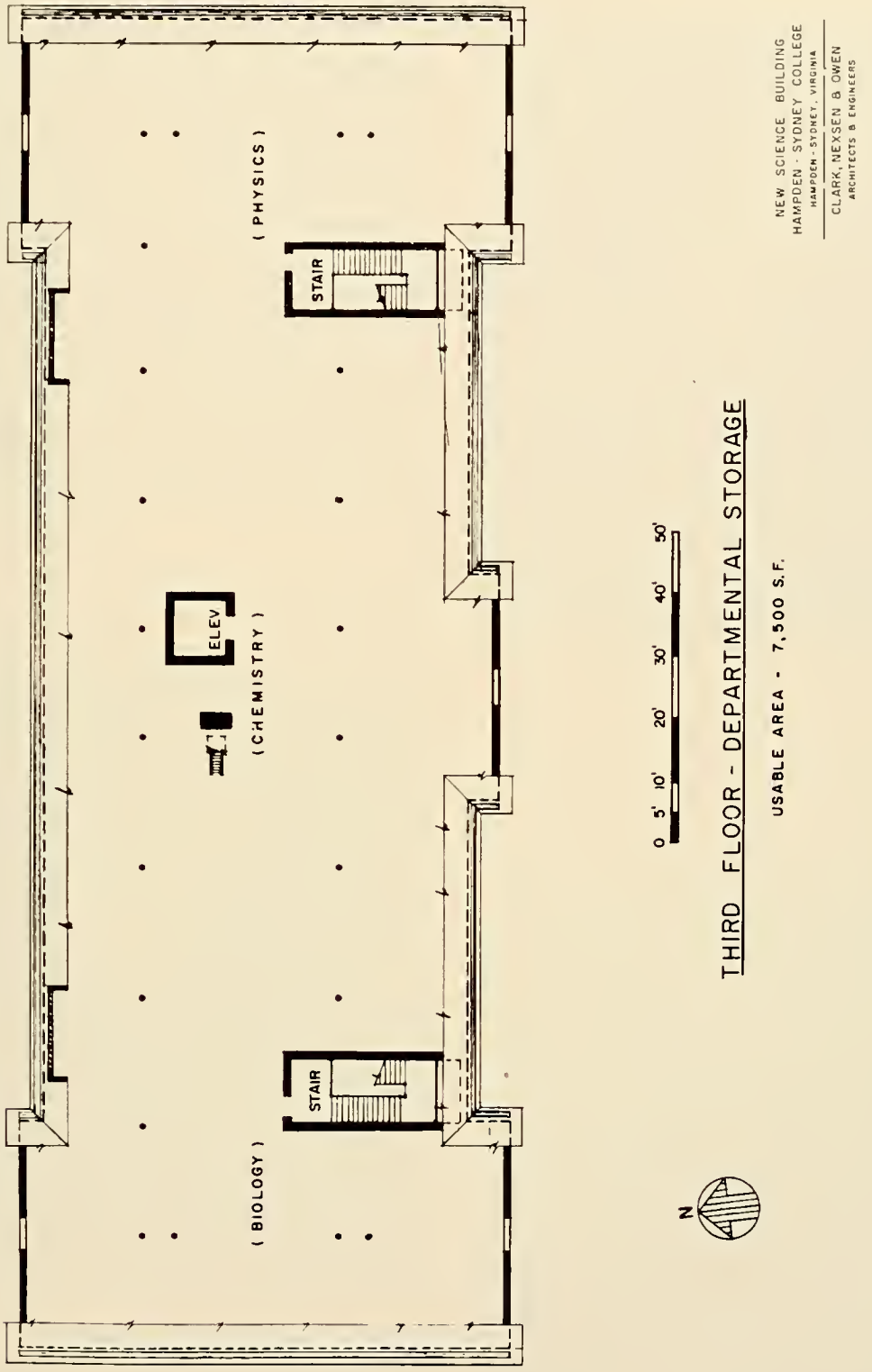


SECOND FLOOR - CHEMISTRY

AREA - 15,300 S.F.

NEW SCIENCE BUILDING
HAMPDEN - SYDNEY COLLEGE
HAMPDEN - SYDNEY, VIRGINIA

CLARK, NEXSEN & OWEN
ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS



In All The Liberal Arts."

Ground Breaking . . .

Mr. Chewning, representing the Board of Trustees

THE ground breaking for Hampden-Sydney's new science hall on February 14 had a great deal more than earth-spading symbolism.

There were echoes from the college's outstanding history of science instruction; the forecast that the facilities will be adequate to prepare students for any work they may choose, and promises of alumni support and student dedication to the serious pursuit of scientific studies.

All of these occurred in Johns Auditorium during a morning assembly preceding the gound breaking. Then followed the walk by students, faculty and visitors to the cleared campus spot, adjoining Eggleston Library, where the $2,017,000, three-story structure of Georgian architecture will be erected.

Lewis G. Chewning, of Richmond, chairman of the college board of trustees, acknowledged that the importance of science today requires some modification in H-SC tradition. He said that one of the reasons for the college's long and historic march of success "has been its emphasis on persons over facilities."

The new science hall, he said, would not seek to emphasize either, but rather "to match" today's scientific challenge with the finest facilities, the best teachers and serious students.

Dr. Thomas E. Gilmer, former acting president, and Physics department head, issued a promise on behalf of the science faculty that its dedication would equal this multimillion expression of confidence. He said the new facility would serve as a fitting tribute to three faculty members who brought distinction to the college for many decades, Dr. Bagby, in physics, Dr. Winston, whose 50-year tenure in chemistry is the college's longest, and to Dr. Overcash in biology.

James L. Trinkle, of Roanoke, an attorney and member of the Class of 1950 and past president of the college Alumni Association, represented the Hill graduates in the ceremonies, while Leigh Fultz, a Winston-Salem senior and student body president was student spokesman. Both indicated the college could anticipate alumni and student support and enthusiasm.

The exercises concluded with President Reveley, Chairman Chewning, Dr. Gilmer, Trinkle and Fultz each turning over a golden spade full of earth at the construction site just west of Eggleston Library.

Representatives of the architects and the contractor, Mottley Construction Company of Farmville, were recognized, as was T. Kyle Baldwin, Farmville trustee of the college. Work has begun on the building with completion anticipated by July, 1968. The Rev. Dr. R. E. Withers, Jr., concluded the brief on-site exercises with a benediction. Claude H. Pritchard, Jr., college vice president, presided at the outdoor portion of the ceremonies.

Scientific Demand

Teacher Likes H-SC's Rising To Challenge

Dr. Gilmer, representing the Science Faculty

(Editor's Note: The following article by John Steck, Managing Editor of *The Farmville Herald*, appeared in that newspaper on March 14. The article sheds some light on what the new science facility will mean to future generations of Hampden-Sydney men.)

A man who made it big despite limited resources in his own student days admits that at least in undergraduate instruction in the sciences the old order just won't do.

Dr. Reveley, representing the Administrative Staff

That's why Dr. Thomas E. Gilmer, who took his science preparation when Hampden-Sydney College's lecture rooms and labs were in ancient (1822) Cushing Hall, was one of the happiest diggers at the college's recent ground breaking for a new science hall.

Contrasting facilities of another day with the demands made today by graduate schools in the sciences, Dr. Gilmer declares: "They would leave a student without a prayer of a chance today."

On the way to a notable career in the teaching field, Dr. Gilmer earned a master's degree in physics at the University of Virginia in 1926. Looking at that point in his preparation in the light of scientific developments today, he says:

"For us to prepare graduates adequately in physics and the other sciences, we must take them farther than were the requirements when I got an MA at Virginia."

That's quite a forward stride, but the man who has helped his institution gain national distinction for sending seniors on to graduate study in physics points out that the colleges must keep step. "The graduate schools expect, and in fact, demand high standards and accomplishment on the part of applicants."

The requirements at some of the wealthiest and most prestigious graduate institutions are almost astounding, according to Dr. Gilmer.

The new Hampden-Sydney multi-million-dollar science hall, when it is completed two years hence, will greatly aid the college in perpetuating its outstanding record of preparing students for graduate work.

Bagby Hall, the present science hall at H-SC, was completed and occupied in the spring of 1923 . . . Dr. Gilmer's senior year at Hampden-Sydney, when the student body numbered about 200. Now the science building must serve a student body tripled in numbers and one facing the ever-increasing demands of a sophisticated curriculum in the sciences. That includes elaborate undergraduate research.

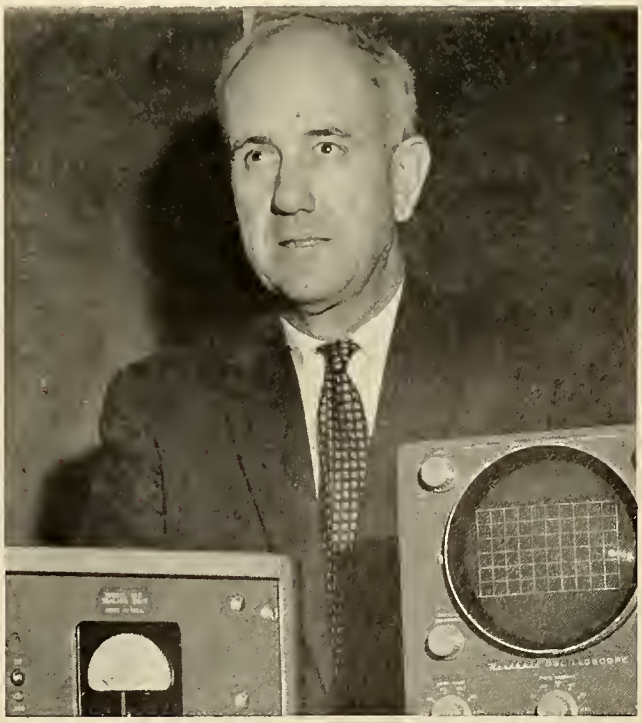
But not everything will change with a new building, Dr. Gilmer adds. Along with the multiplicity of scientific facilities there are intangibles that have contributed heavily to Hampden-Sydney's fine record.

Dr. Gilmer credits this to the institution's heralded faculty triumvirate in the sciences, the late Doctors Bagby, Winston and Overcash, the former who taught at H-SC for 42 years, giving his name to the present science hall.

"They set high standards for their students . . . and they never deviated from them," Dr. Gilmer declares. There were no shortcuts or convenient standards under them, and that is the tradition H-SC intends to keep as the indispensable partner to the tangibles of equipment and labs.

Dr. Gilmer, who served as interim president of Hampden-Sydney during the 1960-63 period, says today's science curriculum requires "dedicated boys." In his own field of physics, a student, he points out, "surrenders practically all his afternoons after the freshman year."

The institution needs to meet that kind of dedication head on. And the man who took his undergraduate work when the physics department was crowded into second passage of Cushing Hall in days when much of the whole college centered in that venerable building, was happy at the ground breaking last month.



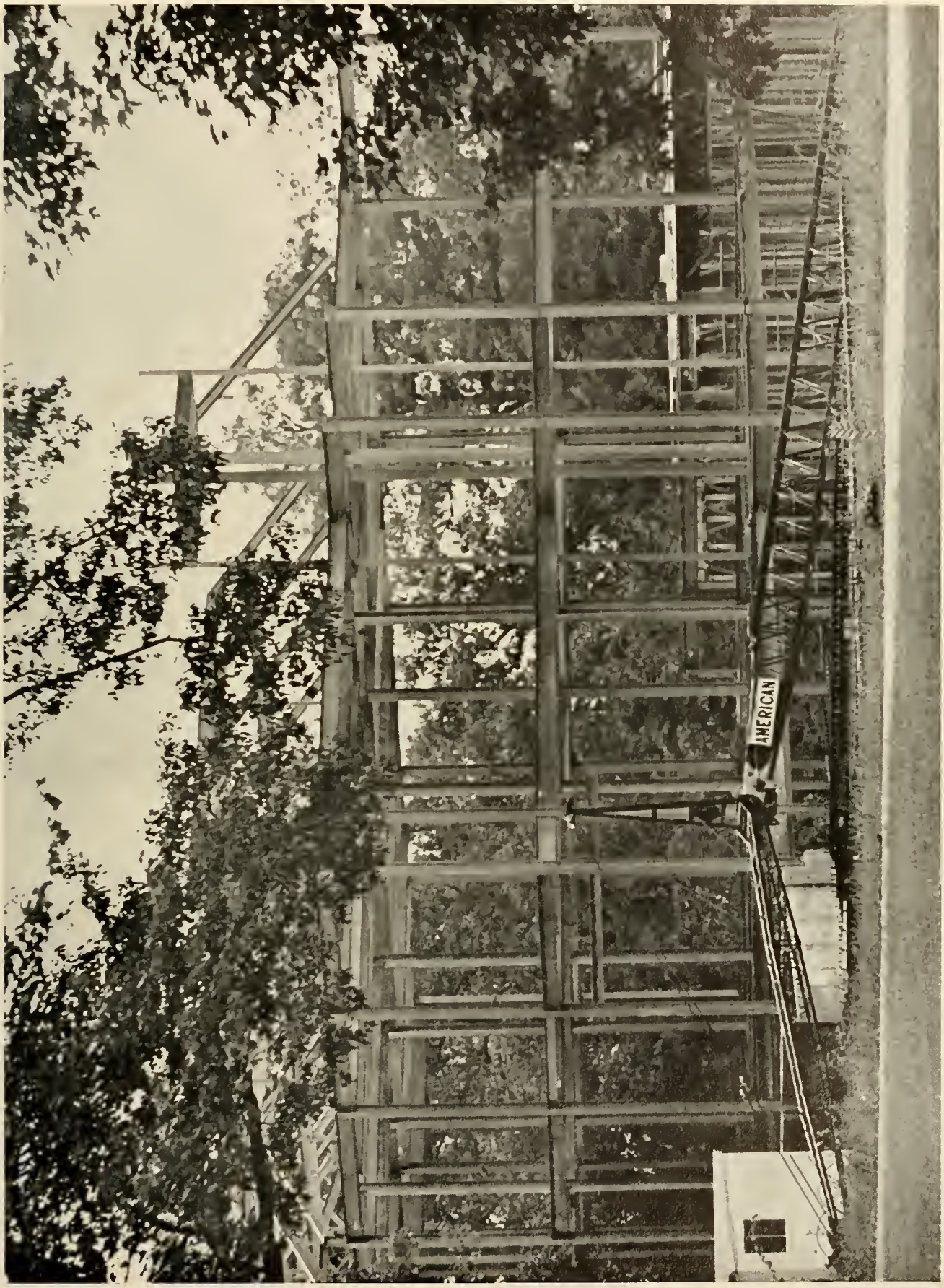
Dr. Thomas E. Gilmer

Mr. Trinkle, representing the Alumni Association

Mr. Fultz, representing the Student Body

Led by Mr. Chewning, Dr. Reveley, and Mr. Fultz, the entire Student Body, Faculty, and guests leave Johns Auditorium and head for the construction site for groundbreaking ceremonies.

Board Chairman Lewis G. Chewning is shown above turning the first spade of soil breaking ground for the college's new science building. Others participating in the ceremonies are (left to right) Clifton L. Barbieri, representing Clark, Nexsen and Owen, architects; W. Louis Bridgforth, representing Mottley Construction Company; Leigh S. Fultz, President of the Student Body; James L. Trinkle, President of the Alumni Association; Dr. Thomas E. Gilmer; Dr. Taylor Reveley; and the Rev. H. William Vassey, Chaplain of the College.



CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Dr. W. T. Joyner, CCP Staff Member, Reports On Year's Work

DR. W. T. JOYNER

Dr. W. T. Joyner, returning to the Hampden-Sydney College campus after a year in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as a staff member of the Commission on College Physics, says that the United States is facing a decline in the number of young people enrolling in physics courses—an interesting fact when one considers the emphasis being placed today on physics and its related fields.

This is only one of the "problem areas" in which Dr. Joyner worked as a Commission staff member. Dr. Joyner, the first southeastern professor to be invited to work with the Commission, served with Dr. Peter G. Roll, of Princeton University, and Dr. Paul R. Camp, of the United States Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory. Dr. John M. Fowler, of Washington University in St. Louis, was the staff director.

The establishment of the Commission on College Physics was recommended by the participants in the final meeting of a series of three national conferences on the Improvement of College Physics held in 1959-1960. The objectives of these conferences were to analyze the aims and substance of college physics courses and the resources for improving such courses, and to formulate plans for the improvement of the teaching of physics at the college level throughout the country. The resulting Commission on College Physics was charged with the responsibility of coordinating a national program to achieve these objectives. Funds for operating the Commission came from the National Science Foundation.

"The Commission considers its primary functions to be fourfold," Dr. Joyner said. "The collection and dissemination of information about curricular developments, the critical appraisal of the effectiveness of these developments, the consideration of what additional efforts are needed, and the stimulation of physicists toward course and curriculum development are what we consider to be our most pressing needs at this time. With these basic needs in mind, the Commission held a series of four conferences during the past year."

The four conferences dealt with every possible interest level in physics education. The Minnesota Conference, held at the University of Minnesota, explored a variety of programs to experiment with new approaches in course design, materials, and techniques for introductory physics classes intended for the students most familiar to the physicist—those in science and engineering; the Boulder Conference, held at the University of Colorado, examined courses and teaching techniques to be aimed at the non-science major; the Seattle Conference, held at the University of Washington, was aimed at the student who needs to go beyond the introductory non-scientist physics course but for whom the traditional major curriculum appears not particularly well suited; and the Irvine Computer Conference, held to provide stimulus and direction to experimentation with the computer as an instructional element in all phases of physics.

"The enrollment decline," Dr. Joyner explained, "is, we believe, a direct outgrowth of the problems which these conferences were designed to eliminate. Physics *is* a difficult subject, but we do not think it is as difficult as some teachers have been leading students to believe. This is not too serious a problem for the student who has a natural inclination toward physics, but it can be disastrous to the student who has the *undeveloped* interest and ability for the subject. It is natural for this type student to stay away from a subject which is constantly described as very hard. By changing curricula, or designing courses for each interest level, we hope to overcome the idea that physics is just for the scientific minded."

The Commission will begin its attack on the enrollment problem by starting to work in its own back yard.

"The decrease in the number of students enrolling in physics courses means that there are fewer teachers being produced who are qualified to teach physics," Dr. Joyner said. "The need for more teachers of physics in the high schools and colleges is more serious in physics than in any of the other sciences. This is surely contributing to the unfortunate trend toward smaller enrollments, for if there are no teachers, there is no one to spark an interest in physics in the student."

The recently formed CCP Panel on the Preparation of Physics Teachers has begun the examination of the problems of teacher preparation and recruitment. It will confine, for the present at least, its considerations to the preparation of high school teachers. The panel's first project will be to assemble descriptions of teacher preparation curricula at all state supported institutions and to prepare for distribution a resource booklet describing the most successful examples. "By placing information on the best physics courses available in the hands of potential teachers, we hope to kill two birds with one stone," Dr. Joyner said. "We will hopefully increase the enrollment at the college level,

and will at the same time begin producing more physics teachers for the high schools. These new teachers will know from their own experiences that there are excellent courses for every interest level being offered throughout the country, and will begin to interest more students in physics."

The possibility of combined courses is also being explored by the Commission. The idea that physics and chemistry, or that physics, chemistry, and biology can be taught in one course has become increasingly attractive as physics is increasingly expected to provide a quantitative foundation for the other sciences. "A considerable amount of classroom experience with such courses is now available," Dr. Joyner reported. "The CCP, in cooperation with the similar organizations in chemistry and biology, is engaged in the collection of information on the experiences gained from these courses. We look toward further evaluation of these courses by the profession and toward publication of some further course outlines."

Also under careful consideration by the Commission are regional cooperative associations. "Through these regional cooperatives," Dr. Joyner said, "a joint attack on mutual problems by a group of neighboring colleges and universities would be launched. A regional center would be set up at one particular institution in the area, with all the surrounding schools guiding and participating in the center's activities. Such a cooperative effort would have the advantage of administrative streamlining for the handling of separate small project grants, and of above-critical mass to make faculty exchange, consultation, and group effort productive.

"Virginia has great potential in this area because of the fairly large number of small colleges located throughout the State. One might see three regional centers in Virginia; one each for the metropolitan areas of Richmond and Norfolk, and one for the remainder of the State, located perhaps in Lynchburg or Charlottesville. Virginia also has a large number of excellent junior colleges—colleges which have not been overlooked by the Commission's plans. The Commission has joined in forming an interdisciplinary panel consisting of a commissioner and a junior college science teacher to represent each of the college science commissions. This panel will work exclusively with the problems facing junior colleges."

Since many of Virginia's colleges are small liberal arts institutions, Dr. Joyner was asked what he thought their roles would be in the future.

"The smallness of many Virginia institutions is a decided advantage," he said. "In these small schools the faculty teaches all courses, whereas in many larger institutions all lower division courses are taught by graduate students. Close contact with a professor means, in most cases, a better prepared student. This is the small college's major role. We need better prepared students in all phases of the profession."

Dr. Joyner was quick to come to the defense of the larger institutions. "The absence of the professor from the classroom in the larger institutions is in many ways the fault of the physics profession. With increasingly large amounts of money being made available to educational institutions, the profession has pushed an increasing amount of research projects on the institutions. This situation has put the graduate student in the classroom and the professor in the research laboratory. The small college must keep this in mind, because more money is being made available to them. We must remember that our first obligation is to the student—the student who will be prepared to meet all the needs of a constantly changing field of science."

Dr. Joyner received his B.S. degree from Hampden-Sydney in 1951, his M.A. from Duke University in 1952, and his Ph.D. from Duke in 1955. He has returned to full-time teaching at Hampden-Sydney, where he joins a distinguished staff of physicists who have brought honor to the 192-year-old institution.

In 1959 the *American Journal of Physics* reported that Hampden-Sydney College led the nation in the proportion of physics majors who go on to obtain the Ph.D. degree in physics.

Dr. Joyner's appointment as Director of a new College Physics Program sponsored jointly by the American Association of Physics Teachers (A.A.P.T.) and the American Institute of Physics (A.I.P.) was announced in New York on March 23.

Under Dr. Joyner's direction, the new program (a function of the A.I.P. Education and Manpower Division) will assist junior colleges and small four-year colleges in imporoving their undergraduate physics curricula. This will be done in part by supplying information on existing programs of educational assistance and advice on how to capitalize on them, and also by encouraging groups of colleges to cooperate with each other so as to maximize the available resources.

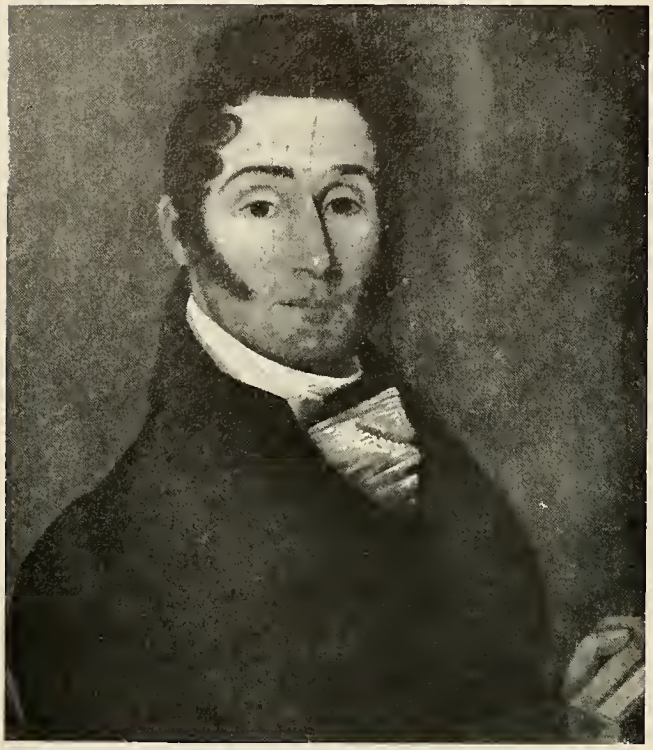
For many years prior to coming to his new post, Dr. Joyner has exhibited special interest in the problems of small colleges and teacher education programs, and he has worked effectively in promoting improvements in these areas. Dr. Joyner is also highly qualified in the subject matter of physics. His research specialties have included low-energy nuclear physics, time-of-flight neutron physics, positron lifetimes, magnetic thin films, and Van de Graaff applications.

From 1951 to 1954, Dr. Joyner was a member of the staff at Duke. In the period from 1954 to 1957, he served as a physicist with the Defense Department. He taught physics at Hampden-Sydney from 1957 until 1965, when he went on leave from that post. He spent the fall semester of 1965 in residence at Pomona College, Claremont, California. In the spring of 1966, Dr. Joyner began a one-year tour of duty as a Staff Physicist for the Commission on College Physics at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Dr. Joyner has served as a Consultant to the Oak Ridge Associated Universities since 1960. He is a member of The American Physical Society, the American Association of Physics Teachers, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He is past Chairman and current Council Representative of the Astronomy, Physics, and Mathematics Section of the Virginia Academy of Science, and he is presently serving as chairman of the A.A.P.T. Visual Aids Committee. Dr. Joyner is married to the former Marianne Steele. They make their home in Hampden-Sydney and have three children.

Dr. Joyner will be working on a half-time basis for A.I.P. He will also continue to serve as Professor of Physics at Hampden-Sydney and will maintain a branch office of the A.I.P. Education and Manpower Division at that location. Most of his activities in promoting educational improvements in the colleges will be carried out in direct contact with the educators and scientists cooperating in the A.I.P. program.

Francis Joseph and John Peter Mettauer



DR. JOHN PETER METTAUER
(1787-1876), A.M., M.D., LL.D.

He was the son of Dr. Francis Joseph Mettauer and Eliza Gaulding. A pupil of Doctors Rush, Physick and Wistar—he was a specialist in genito-urinary and orthopedic surgery and was also very successful in operation for cataract, seeming almost to have anticipated the use of antiseptics, now so common

(Editor's Note: The following article, written by the late President Joseph Dupuy Eggleston, appeared in the January, 1928, edition of THE RECORD. The only change made by the editors was to make the "i" a "y" in Sydney.)

The name Mettauer first appears in Prince Edward County with that of Francis Joseph Mettauer, who was an army surgeon with French troops stationed at Kingsville after the Battle of Yorktown.

There is recorded in the County Court of Prince Edward a power of attorney given by "John Peter Mettauer, late of Sultzbach, Upper Alsace, Kingdom of France," to Francis Joseph Mettauer, to transact certain business for him on the latter's visit to France. The instrument is dated October 18, 1790. This John Peter Mettauer is said to have been a brother of Francis Joseph, and to have been an army surgeon also. There is no other mention of this John Peter Mettauer, to indicate where he lived, his business or profession or where and when he died.

The first indication of a permanent settlement of Francis Joseph Mettauer in the Kingsville neighborhood, near Hampden-Sydney, is found in the county records, as follows: Deed Book 7; 118, March 15, 1784, Pugh Price sells to Joseph Mettauer certain land (80 acres) "next to the Glebe lands" and next to "Nathaniel Venable's line." The Glebe lands included property at and near Kingsville, and also across Briery River, where the manse "Providence" was located.

On April 21, 1788, Joseph Mattauer bought land (acreage not stated) from Andrew Johnston, who owned land at and near Kingsville. On April 21, 1789, Robert Lawson sold to Joseph Mettauer 422 acres, which appear to have been located north by east of Kingsville on the main road going towards the old Watkins place and Farmville.

The records show that Francis Joseph Mettauer married Jemima Gaulding. Mr. Branch Rodgers of Kingsville, who knows a great deal of local history, and whose statements are usually correct in such matters, says that she was a widow, that her maiden name was Crump, and that she was a native of Henrico County

The records show that on June 20, 1792, a jury was impaneled "to locate and circumscribe" one acre of land for a mill dam on Shelton's Branch, "the north side of which belongeth to Joseph Mettauer"; the other side belonged to Nathaniel Venable. The purpose in calling the jury is stated in the following quaint words:

"To examine the Lands above and below, of the property of others which may probably be Overflowed and to say to what damage it will be of to the several proprietors, and whether the Mansion house of any such proprietor or the offices, or Curtilage or Garden thereunto immediately belonging, or Orchards, will be Overflowed, to enquire whether and in what degree fish of Passage and Ordinary Navigation will be Obstructed, whether by any or by what means such Obstructions may be prevented and whether in their Opinion the Health of the Neighbors will be annoyed by the Stagnation of the Waters."

Shelton's Branch is a continuation of Mettauer's or the Tan Yard Branch, and the mill stood about a third of a mile east of Dr. Mettauer's home.

It is interesting to know that James Jones, of Nottoway County, a famous member of the famous Class of 1791, studied medicine under Dr. Francis Joseph Mettauer, after graduating at Hampden-Sydney. The Joneses were people of ample means and the young man would not have taken even a preliminary training in medicine under this physician, unless the latter had been a man of considerable reputation in his profession. This was in 1793; and, after further preliminary studies under other physicians, he entered the University of Edinburgh, and graduated in medicine in June, 1796.

Dr. Mettauer in his will made December 31, 1811, and recorded January 20, 1812, makes his sons, John Peter and Francis, his executors, and frees several of his slaves.

The tradition is that John Peter Mettauer, son of Francis Joseph, was born 1787, and that he was 88 when he died in 1875. Morrison thinks that this date is too early, basing his doubt on a record in the Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the College, of January 4, 1804, as follows:

"Dr. Joseph Mettauer attended the Board and complained that his son, Peter, had been improperly and passionately corrected by Mr. Leak, the teacher of the Grammar School. After hearing the complaint, and after mature deliberation, it is determined that it will be best, and most for the peace of College, not to enter

into a particular investigation of this matter. But to prevent all complaint of this kind, and all cause of complaint in future, it is ordered that no boy above fourteen years old shall receive corporal punishment from the teacher of the Grammar School except in the presence of the president and teachers of College."

Morrison's doubt arose from what he regarded as the improbability of a boy 16 or 17 receiving corporal punishment from a teacher. But he forgot that in those early days of the Republic the rod was applied vigorously, and early and late, and that the little matter of age had nothing to do with it. And this was the custom down to comparatively recent times, if the '80's are not considered ancient.

On October 1, 1810, Martin Smith sold to John Peter Mettauer 100 acres of land, and on November 14, 1811, Joseph Watkins and Ruth, his wife, sold to young Mettauer certain lots "in the village of Farmville."

In a little book kept by Mrs. James P. Smith, of Worsham, Virginia, and now in the hands of Mrs. J. M. Hart, is the following entry made November 22, 1875: "At three o'clock P.M., Dr. John Mettauer ceased from his labours. The good physician, 86 years old." If his age as given here is correct, he was born in 1789; was at least 14 when he received the "corporal punishment" at the hands of Mr. Leak; was 20 when he graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania; was 21 when he was made one of the executors of his father's estate.

Dr. Bagby, in his General Catalogue of Hampden-Sydney, places Peter Mettauer in the class of 1811. Morrison places him in the class of 1806. Dr. Mettauer left a paper in his own handwriting stating that the Philanthropic Literary Society was organized in 1805, and that he joined it a few weeks or months after its organization. It does not seem probable that he joined the Society while he was attending the Grammar School. He entered College in 1805, and belonged to the Class of 1809; but he left before graduating, as he graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 1809. The General Catalogue states that he was given an Honorary Master's Degree in 1839. It has not been ascertained when and where he received the degree of Doctor of Laws.

The record of Dr. John Peter Mettauer as a physician and surgeon has been written and published by Drs. George Ben Johnston, A. Murat Willis, and others, and will not, therefore, be touched upon in this paper. He married four times: (1) Miss Mary Woodard, of Norfolk, Virginia. In 1816, April 13th, is recorded in the Clerk's Office of Prince Edward County, a deed from "John Peter Mettauer and Mary, his wife, of the Borough of Norfolk" to John Spalding, for land. Mr. Branch Rodgers states that by this marriage Dr. Mettauer had two children, (a) Francis Joseph, who became a physician, and lived, and died in 1882, near Kingsville, in his home just across the road from old "Whitehall"; and (b) a son who died in infancy. He married (2) Miss Margaret E. Carter, daughter of Samuel Carter, of Prince Edward. The marriage bond is dated April 13, 1825, and the date of the marriage is stated on the register as being April 14th. By this marriage, according to Mr. Rodgers, he had four children, (a) Nannie; (b) Henry Archer, who was of the Class of 1847 at Hampden-Sydney, and became a distinguished surgeon, living and dying at Macon, Georgia. He was in the C. S. A. (c) Edward Mumford, who was in the same class with his brother at College, became a physician, and died in Florida; (d) a son who died in infancy.

Mrs. Margaret Mettauer was living in November, 1828, when she joined in a deed with her husband for the sale of land. In July, 1830, Dr. Mettauer sold land to Joel Dupuy, and there is no mention of his wife; apparently she was dead at this date.

In July, 1836, John Peter Mettauer and his wife, Louisa, joined in a deed for the sale of land. This was his third wife, Miss Mansfield, of Connecticut; and Mr. Rodgers tells me that by her he had a daughter, Molly, a celebrated beauty, who married Henry Winfree.

His fourth wife was Miss Mary E. ("Pinkie") Dyson, daughter of Thomas Dyson, of Nottoway County, and by her he had three children, (a) Fanny, who married Wyatt Crute, and had issue; (b) Alice and (c) a son who died in infancy. In 1854 John Peter Mettauer and his wife, Mary E. Mettauer, joined in a deed for the sale of a grist mill "formerly known as Perry's Mill, two or three miles north of the court house." This was later known as Bass' Mill.

The inventory and appraisal of the estate of John Peter Mettauer was made January 4, 1876.

Captain Richard F. Burke, who was born and raised at old Prince Edward Court House and attended the Grammar School at Hampden-Sydney (located in The Alamo) in 1853, or '54, stated to me that among others who studied under Doctor Mettauer at his home between Kingsville and Worsham (old Court House), were the two Doctors Dillon, of Prince Edward; Dr. Oscar Wiley, of Craig County, who married a Miss Pearson; Dr. Clem Fontaine; Dr. Johns, of Lunenburg County; Drs. Francis Joseph, Archer and Mumford Mettauer; and probably Dr. Gregory.

The Virginia Medical Society, at my request, has erected recently a handsome stone to the memory of Dr. Mettauer, and has placed it at the head of his grave in the College Church cemetery. . .

Francis Joseph Mettauer, the father of John Peter, lies buried at the old Mettauer place, now an old field. His dust should be moved and placed beside his distinguished son in College church cemetery and a stone erected to commemorate his services as an officer of the War of the Revolution.

—J. D. E.

Dr. John Peter Mettauer is generally acknowledged in the medical profession as being one of the most eminent surgeons this country has produced. He performed most unusual and skillful operations and was the inventor of surgical instruments which, with certain perfections, are still used today. It is thought that Dr. John Peter Mettauer was the doctor who performed the first Caesarean section in the United States.

He was evidently quite a character in his day, for legend has it that he was never seen without his stovepipe hat. It was in this hat that he is supposed to have carried his medical instruments and personal papers. He even wore the hat, so the legend says, when he gave his daughter in marriage. People came from quite a distance to attend the wedding—not to see the bride, but to see if Dr. Mettauer would appear for the ceremony in his famous hat. They were not disappointed!

When Dr. Mettauer was buried in College Church Cemetery in 1875 the legend says that he even went to his grave wearing his stovepipe hat.

Virginia Professor Put Click In Photography

And It Has Taken A Richmond Minister To Establish The Claim For Hampden-Sydney

DR. JOHN WILLIAM DRAPER

(Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* on May 5, 1940. Concerning Dr. John William Draper and the Rev. Howard C. Cobbs' campaign to have Dr. Draper recognized officially as the "Father of Portrait Photography," the article is of interest to all Hampden-Sydney alumni and appropriate for this science building edition of THE RECORD. The Rev. Mr. Cobbs is now Superintendent of the Sunnyside Presbyterian Home at Massanetta Springs, Virginia.)

BY PAT JONES

THE crude old box-shaped camera that Dr. John William Draper left at Hampden-Sydney College in 1839 to clutter up the chemical laboratory for his successors will be placed in the Smithsonian Institution at Washington as the first camera in America and the first "quick-action" camera in the world.

The camera has been accepted by the institution and will be presented officially in June as a part of the commencement exercises of the college, Virginia educational institution six months older than the Declaration of Independence.

Location of the odd contraption in its own little niche in the huge national museum will mark the end of years of searching for records to establish its true identity, of an eight-year quest by an ex-photographer-ministerial student who would not quit until the goal had been reached.

It will mark the close of decades of argument over where the true birthplace of portrait photography lay, over where the father of this profession that now has grown into a major industry nursed the brain child that was to preserve human images to the world.

Relic Left Behind

Dr. Draper was a member of the faculty of New York University at the time he took the first photographic portrait in 1840, but it was at Hampden-Sydney, which he had left only a few months earlier, that he did his most important experimental work. And it was there he left the slower and more burdensome forerunner of the camera with which he made the initial photograph of a human face.

Credit for unraveling the mystery wrapped around this early photographic equipment, which existed long before bulb-squeezing ever was heard of, goes to the Rev. Howard C. Cobbs, soft-voiced, slow-talking pastor of the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church at Richmond.

The Rev. Mr. Cobbs, was interested in the crude box because of his decade of work in a picture studio at Charleston, W. Va., before he took up the study of the Bible. The discoveries which grew out of his self-appointed task extended across the Atlantic, from the United States to England to France.

He found that others had preceded Draper in the art of taking a permanent photograph—Niepce and Daguerre, both Frenchmen, and Fox Talbot, an Englishman. But the process used by them had required from an hour to two hours of exposure.

So it was left to the professor of chemistry and natural philosophy at Hampden-Sydney, himself a short, square-figured Britisher with a massive head, to reduce this time to a matter of minutes—five in the case of the first portrait—so that a human being could sit still long enough to be "shot."

Moreover, he found that the camera left at Hampden-Sydney by the "father of portrait photography" was easily the predecessor of that with which Draper made the first portrait—of his sister, Miss Dorothy Draper—and that the differences between the two—lenses of larger aperture and shorter focus—accounted for the pioneer's ultimate success.

Cows Were a Nuisance

More than a century had elapsed since Draper, son of a minister, had worked away on his experiments in Cushing Hall at Hampden-Sydney and the day the ministerial student happened onto a record of what he had been doing. Much argument and letterwriting by later generations separated the two periods.

It was an unsavory time for scientific experiment—1836—when Draper, just 25 years old, came to Hampden-Sydney. Interest was centered more on governmental affairs, and there already was a rising resentment to slavery. On top of that, the college had plenty of poverty, and only one building, standing bare in the middle of an old field of gullies and weeds—where "cows of the neighborhood come up to the very windows with their bells, making such noise that I cannot study," one student wrote.

The Rev. Howard Cobbs is pictured above with Dr. Draper's camera and telescope now on display in the Smithsonian Institution. Mr. Cobbs holds the bronze tablet which hangs in Bagby Hall in memory of the photographic pioneer.

For three years Draper worked, teaching students, building a laboratory, telling the Mineralogical Society of Virginia, through whose interest he had been selected about the mineral resources of the State. In his spare moments, he tinkered with photography.

The latter part of 1839, he resigned to join the faculty of New York University. Behind him he left the camera whose history was to lie buried until 1939.

For decade after decade, this crude boxshaped affair lay as a curio at the college. Occasionally it was pointed out to a student or displayed to an entire class.

"Old Dr. Draper left that there. It was his first camera."

Hard Gap to Fill

No more was known about it. Lewis L. Holladay, who first came to the college as a student in 1849 and later as chemistry professor, remembered that much. Dr. J. H. C. Bagby, his successor, passed it on. There seemed no way to fill the 10-year gap in the word-of-mouth history between 1839, the year Draper left, and 1849, the year Holladay came. But whatever statement concerning the camera Holladay may have made, Draper was still alive as late as 1882 to confirm or deny it.

It was from Dr. Bagby that the Rev. Mr. Cobbs got his cue in 1932.

During February of that year, P. Tulane Atkinson, treasurer of the college, sent two of the silver-coated copper plates left with the camera by Draper to George W. Eastman, president and founder of the Eastman Kodak Company. Soon came a letter in reply, announcing that the plates would be placed in Eastman's museum.

Then the treasurer determined to send a photograph of the camera. That was where Student Cobbs entered the scene. He went over to the physics laboratory as official college photographer, position by which he helped pay his way through school, got a picture of the camera and listened to Dr. Bagby's limited account of the history surrounding it.

A month or so later, a marked page from the New York University Alumnus was placed on the college bulletin board, possibly by the dean, and Cobbs promptly took it down. In the privacy of his room, he read more carefully the printed account of "Looking Backward to Draper."

Draper's Life Described

It told of Draper's life, of his coming to America from England, of his studying at the University of Pennsylvania, of his professorship at Hampden-Sydney College; of how he had been interested in Daguerre's photographic process and how he had experimented with it in collaboration with Samuel F. B. Morse of telegraph fame, himself a pioneer in the photographic field, whose camera now is at the Smithsonian; of how he had taken the first sunlight picture of the human countenance in one of the buildings at New York University.

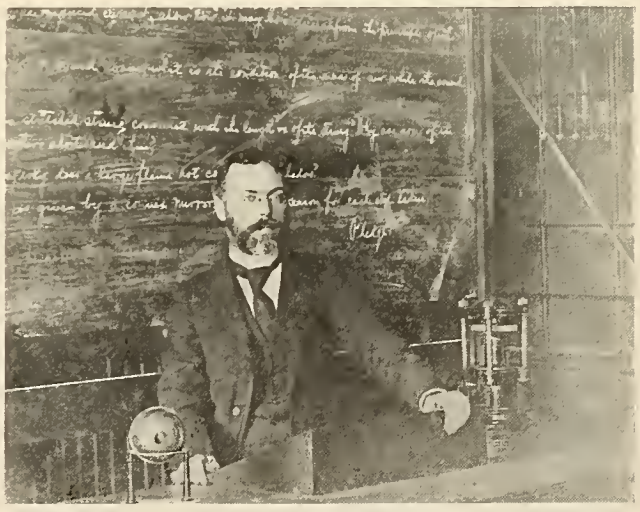
With the story were reproduced photographs of Draper, of the sister who posed for the first portrait, of the camera with which it was taken. It was while looking at this last picture that Cobbs grasped the paper tighter and rushed to the light.

The camera portrayed was not the camera at Hampden-Sydney! It was shorter and bore to less degree the appearance of having been made by hand. To his conviction, the one he had photographed was only the stepping stone to the other.

Cobbs next set out to face the scientist's exact connection with the college. He found a portrait of the old bewhiskered gentleman in the chapel, much damaged by rain from a leaky roof, and had it restored. That was his first friendly act to John William Draper.

Then, one day, a question popped into his mind. Would the old camera work?

He took it out on a sunny afternoon, around 5 o'clock, and photographed Dr. D. M. Allan, born near Draper's



DR. JOHN HAMPDEN CHAMBERLAYNE BAGBY

For 42 years a member of the Hampden-Sydney faculty; first as professor of Physical Science, which when he came here included Physics, Chemistry, Astronomy, and Physiology, and later, as Professor of Physics and Astronomy. This picture was printed from a glass negative which was taken with a camera similar to Dr. Draper's.

Cushing Hall as photographed by Dr. Bagby, using a Draper-like camera. When this photograph was taken Cushing was being used as a science building.

birthplace in England, and Dr. J. H. C. Winston, head of the Chemistry Department, using modern films stretched in place of the silver-coated plates. Not even a professional could have turned his back on pictures that resulted. Cobbs didn't, and Cobbs is a professional.

Quest Carried On

In October, 1934, President J. D. Eggleston wrote an article under the heading "Dr. Draper and His Camera," based around the ministerial student's discovery that this crude box built back in the time of the financial panic of President Van Buren's administration actually would work. It appeared in the October, 1934, issue of THE RECORD of the Hampden-Sydney Alumni Association.

After his graduation, Cobbs enrolled at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond to continue his ministerial study. But he did not forsake his quest. He sent out questionnaires to the oldest living alumni of Hampden-Sydney, and the answers which came back, while not definitely proving anything, convinced him he was on the right track.

" . . . My memory is positive and distinct," Peyton H. Hoge of Pewee Valley, Ky., informed the Rev. Mr. Cobbs in a typical reply, "that Professor Holladay used to point to the clumsy-looking camera on the top shelf of the class room presses as the one with which Dr. Draper experimented . . . "

Months passed during which the ministerial student fingered through old letters and delved into archives.

On January 11, 1939, T. W. Davis of the department of chemistry at New York University wrote President Eggleston telling him of their plans for the 100th anniversary celebration of Dr. Draper's connection with that institution and asking for proof concerning the identification of the Hampden-Sydney camera, reference to which he had seen in the article in THE RECORD.

In two letters, written only five days apart, the president reviewed the background of the smaller institution's claim as fully as he could.

Davis soon replied that he had hoped Hampden-Sydney's camera was the original, but that "I am reluctant to conclude that it probably is not." He explained that the dates were against the claim of the Virginia school and that the description of its camera indicated that it was of a later design than the one at New York.

Challenge Taken Up

That reply was a red flag in the eyes of Cobbs. He went to work on a full report of what he had found, typed it, dressed it up with pictures of the principals, the camera and the buildings concerned, and fastened it all in a line-bordered covering, stapled to make it appear more formal.

Then he headed for the Smithsonian Institution at Washington. He hoped there to find recognition and a safe storage place for the camera. He had not found the record that would confirm his belief beyond doubt but he believed he had compiled enough evidence to obtain the desired end.

That was on a Saturday of last summer.

He described his findings before C. W. Mitman, head curator, A. G. Olmsted, chief photographer, and Austin H. Clarke, curator of echinoderms. They listened patiently, manifesting great interest.

"It's the finest piece of research work in the field of photography," pronounced the group when he had finished. "But you haven't examined our records here at the institution. Stay over until Monday and let us see what we have."

"I didn't know about your record," replied Cobbs. "Certainly I'll stay."

Monday morning, he entered the chief photographer's office to find a book lying open upon the desk. On the pages before him were printed the end of his long quest, the stop in the 10-year gap, the answer to the camera's place in history and Hampden-Sydney's part in the discovery of portrait photography.

It was a letter from Dr. Draper to the *Photographic and Fine Art Journal*, dated from the University of New York May 3, 1858, in answer to the question, "Who made the first photographic portrait?"

"I cannot refrain . . . from expressing surprise that any question should arise respecting priority in taking photographic portraits," began Dr. Draper. "It will soon be 20 years since I took the first one . . . ."

Claim Never Disputed

He stated that he often had laid claim publicly to the distinction and that it never had been disputed. He cited particularly the following paragraph from a chemistry textbook he had written soon after leaving Hampden-Sydney:

"The art of taking portraits from life, which has now become a branch of industry, was invented by me soon after the daguerrotype was known in America; at that time, this, which is by far the most valuable application of the chemical agencies of light was looked upon in Europe as entirely beyond the powers of this process."

He wrote that, for years before either Daguerre or Talbot had published anything on the subject, he had been in the habit of using sensitive paper for investi-

gations of this kind and, further, that for 10 years before anyone in America had turned attention to the subject, he had been occupied with the chemical effects of light.

"To come to the point of your more particular inquiry," he continued, "when Mr. Talbot's experiments appeared the spring of 1839, they, of course, interested me greatly, as having been at work on the action of light for so many years. I repeated what he published and varied it. This was whilst I was professor at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia, and before anything had been published by Daguerre. I tried to shorten the long time required for setting the picture of a house or a tree by using lenses of large aperture and short focus, and this was the germ from which the art of portraiture actually arose."

Used Reflecting Mirror

He reported that, not being able to get a lens of aperture enough to suit him, he had tried "a reflecting mirror or rather a reflecting telescope belonging to that college, and I presume, is there still." (This telescope also has been placed in the Smithsonian Institution.)

A little further in his letter, Dr. Draper explained the reason for the difference in length between the Hampden-Sydney and New York cameras and definitely established the one in Virginia as the older:

"It was during my repetitions of Mr. Talbot's experiments that I recognized the practical value of the experiments I had made in 1835, and published in 1837, respecting the chemical focus of a nonachromatic lens, and saw that the camera must be shortened in order to obtain a sharp picture."

Dr. Draper went into detail on his collaboration with Morse and his experiments leading up to the first successful portrait.

"From what I have said," he concluded, "you will therefore gather that my connection with portraiture dates back to the summer before the publication of Daguerre's process, and that both as respects the use of mirrors and lenses, that I met with various partial successes, but that within a day or two after the daguerrotype was made known here by the *London Literary Gazette*, I had accomplished the object."

Sigh of Relief

Daguerre's process was published in August, 1839, and reached America in September. Dr. Draper did not leave Hampden-Sydney until September, so his "connection with portraiture" definitely had its start there.

Two things kept Virginia from witnessing the successful conclusion of these experiments. But for the extra length of the camera he used and left behind at Hampden-Sydney, but for his lack of knowledge of Daguerre's process of making photographic plates more sensitive, the first portrait might have been taken in the Old Dominion.

When the old box-shaped camera—Draper's "first love"—was set down in its permanent location at Smithsonian Institution last week, beside it stood a happy churchman with prematurely gray hair, student and ex-photographer, relentless searcher of records since 1932.

"I'm happy that the job is over," said the Rev. Mr. Cobbs. "Columbus didn't take eight years to find America."

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ANYTHING NEW?

- **To Alumni:** If anything new has happened to you or to a fellow alumnus, let us know on the blank below, or write a letter.
- **To wives, mothers, and sweethearts:** If your man is too busy or too modest to do the job for himself, please do it for him.

Name..... Class.....

Address.....

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Here is what happened.....

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Name of person filling out blank (if other than the above).....

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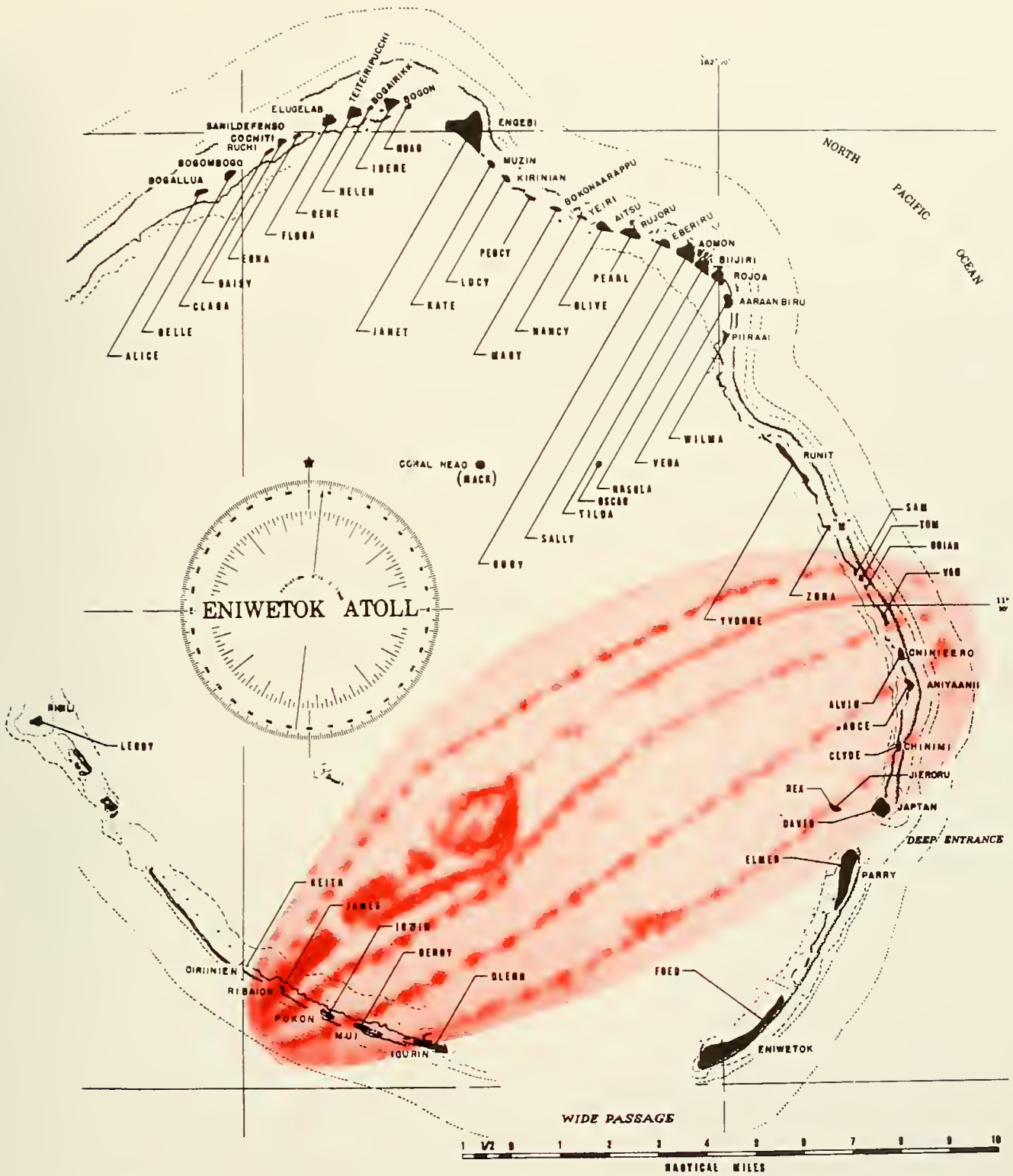

Dr. Jesse C. Thompson of the Biology Department captured this marine ciliate last summer while working at Eniwetok Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. Dr. Thompson, who will become Professor of Biology at Queens College, Charlotte, N. C., this fall, was accompanied to Eniwetok by Cletus M. Sellers, Jr., '66. Dr. Thompson's trip was made possible through a grant of $17,500 to Hampden-Sydney by the National Science Foundation in support of research entitled "A Comparative Systematic Investigation of Marine Ciliates in the Holotrichous Protozoan Order Hymenostomatida."

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